

U.S. National Phase Application

List of Current Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1 - 10 (Cancelled).

11. (New) A method for identification of a user, especially in the case of devices of process automation technology, comprising the steps of:
requesting at least one person-specific feature of the user;
registering the person-specific feature with a sensor;
comparing the registered, person-specific feature with stored features; and
granting access to the user upon matching of the registered, person-specific feature with one of the stored features.

12. (New) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein:
the person-specific feature is a fingerprint.

13. (New) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein:
the person-specific feature is an iris image.

14. (New) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein:
the person-specific feature is randomly selected.

15. (New) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein:
a plurality of person-specific features are requested.

16. (New) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein;
the stored, person-specific features are stored in a data memory of the device.

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17. (New) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein:
the stored, person-specific features are stored in a central memory, to which the device is connected via a data bus.

18. (New) An apparatus for the identification of a user, especially in the case of devices of process automation technology wherein at least one person-specific feature of the user is requested and compared with stored features, with access being granted when a match results from the comparison, comprising:

at least one sensor:
a programmable logic controller; and
a data bus for connecting said at least one sensor to said programmable logic controller, wherein:
said at least one sensor includes means for registering a person-specific feature of the user.

19. (New) In combination with a device for the identification of a user for process automation technology, an apparatus comprising:
a portable unit containing user-specific data; and
a registration unit at the device, which reads user-specific data from said portable unit.

20. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein:
said portable unit is an electronic key.